25 March 1955

TOP SECRET

MEMORANDUM

To: R - Mr. Armstrong

From: R/SPS - T. Achilles Polyzoides

Subject: Secretary's Request for Far East Intelligence.

In the course of the normal Friday morning briefing, the Counselor read Report No. 4 on "The Formosa Straits." Mr. MacArthur reiterated the Secretary's intense interest in intelligence concerning the air field complexes which could form the primary jumping-off areas for an attack on Formosa.

Mr. MacArthur then requested that a special study on these air fields be prepared forthwith for the Secretary. This study should include in the most concise summary form information covering location, strength, length of runways, flight distances from Formosa, aircraft available, general offensive capability which can be mounted from each point, and the vulnerability of each air field. In dealing with the last point it would be of particular interest to know whether any of the air fields can be brought under fixed artillery fire from island installations still held by the Chinese Nationalists.

Mr. MacArthur emphasized that the Canton and Shanghai complexes should be omitted from this study and that the Secretary's requirements with reference to this specific report are for information on the air fields which lie roughly within a 300 mile arc from Taiwan.

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